

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for the synthesis of 3-carboxymethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone, comprising:

- a) providing:
 - i) 3-cyanomethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone; and
 - ii) a first acid; and
- b) reacting said 3-cyanomethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone and said first acid under conditions such that 3-carboxymethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone is produced.

Claim 3 (Canceled):